

**Meeting of the Advisory Board to the State Bureau of Environmental Protection
Division of Safe Drinking Water on Certification of Operators of Public Water
Systems**

January 24th, 2006 9:30am

2590 Lindell Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89146
Conference Room B
18600 Wedge Pkwy Bld B
Mt Rose Hwy, Reno, NV 89511
TMCC Redfield 103
701 Walnut St., Elko, NV 89801
Griswold Hall Room 31

Meeting Minutes

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Darrin Price.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Roll call by secretary Cameron McKay;
 - a. Present; Darrin Price, Lyn Forsberg, Chet Ackley, Cameron McKay, Marie Pollock, and sitting in for Harvey Johnson was Bob Lockridge from IVGID.
 - b. Absent; Marcellus Jones.
 - c. Also present were Steve Brockway, John Walker, State Environmental commission, Doug Zimmerman NDEP and Dana Pennington, NDEP, Dale Malone, Annette Guthrie CA-NV-AWWA, Kevin Malone CA-NV-AWWA, Bob Forester and Janet Hess as the legal representation.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comment.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Moved by Chet Ackley and seconded by Lynn Forsberg for approval.
5. **UPDATE ON THE WORKBOOK AND TRAINING FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS:** Tabled to next meeting.
6. **CHANGE OF NAME OF THE ADVISORY BOARD TO REFLECT NEW AGENCY, POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF DUTIES, AND BOARD REPORTED TO:** Some discussion was held on the possible expansion of duties of the Board, but because legal counsel had not shown up yet, this discussion was postponed.

A motion was made to change the Board's official name to:

**THE ADVISORY BOARD TO THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION ON CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS OF PUBLIC
WATER SYSTEMS.**

Janet Hess; has no problem with name change handouts were dispersed at the Reno teleconference location

On March 8, there will be another meeting of the Environmental Commission.

Darrin Price said that he would attend this meeting.

Lynn; asked if there had been a request from NDEP to expand the Board Duties.

Doug; this is the only Board that reports to the EC. The commission needs to look and see what they need before any expansion of duties can take place. There is a wastewater advisory board. This will be president setting. The EC is not looking for expanded role at present.

John; Legislation says “may” appoint board. Commission has to appoint board first before expansion of duties.

Chet; we are established now as op cert board. Let us stay with that for now.

Lynn; fine with the expanded role but do we have a reason for the change?

Darrin; we will first establish relationship and then work on expanding.

7. **GENERAL DISCUSSION – CONTRACT OPERATORS**

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES: Dana Pennington expressed his concerns about contract operators. They have found in some sanitary surveys that some operators know very little about the operations of some facilities, even to the point that they do not even have the keys or access to some of the buildings. The operators need to be involved in the day-to-day operations. He did mention that these were isolated instances.

Bob; Dana was accurate that this was an isolated instance. The circuit riders do cover the state effectively. Southern NV has several systems run by contractors properly and there and do not have compliance issues.

Dana; I will write an article to waterlines and will use other media as outlet.

Enforcement will be another problem. The EC has to enforce, when op is named, the assumption is that they know the needs of the system. I get reports from Washoe Co for ground water systems. All sanitary surveys done timely. Washoe County may have problems.

This is not a huge problem most industry doing job. A possible idea is to develop a menu that will give systems a certain amount of duties for \$.

Lynn; circuit riders should note systems that need direction for contact operators.

Phil; SDWIS has ability to see how many contract operators are in business.

Dana; Not really, systems have more than one designated operator, SDWIS does not have op cert process. This can only be done by hand.

Darrin; this could fall under the media campaign. We must fulfill the need of request from Dana.

Chet; we may ask for volunteers form larger systems to show others the ethics again at the Rural Water Conference. I will volunteer to give a class on this at the Conference.

Darrin; the luncheon may also be a good place to talk about this. Email discussion can occur between now and the next meeting. In addition, put it on the next agenda.

8. **GENERAL DISCUSSION - BRIEFING PAPER TO NDEP ENTITLED**

“WATEROPERATORS IN NEVADA”: Phil Walsack presented and dispersed a hard copy of *State of the Industry Drinking Water in Rural Nevada* to attendees. This paper was on the future of the water operators in Nevada. Representing Farr West Engineering Phil discussed details and issues covered in this paper
Darrin; can we send this to the EC in March?

9. **GENERAL DISCUSSION - NEVADA STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND**

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM-UPDATE: Phil Walsack stated that many operators have asked when the next 36-hour class would be for the op cert program. The next one will be in Dayton/ Lyon County on Feb 28. This is the first

class offered in NV and is at no cost to the attendees. This course is just one of the college level courses. When more classes will be offered, Phil will notify the Board.

10. CA – NV AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION (AWWA)

PROGRESS REPORT: Annette Guthrie reported that Darcy's last day is Feb 3. Nancy Sullivan is acting Director. Annette will get most of her duties. Darrin asked if Darcy had given a list of projects in limbo right now. Annette will report on these at the next meeting.

11. STAFF REPORTS: Doug Zimmerman reported that the next EC meeting on March 8. They plan to go forward with the Board for support. This finds them an avenue to communicate with the operators. He did not know what the future role of the board would be.

He needs the short bio sheet for all members. This board needs to look into similarities between the wastewater board and us. We need paper from Mike Nair. We should invite the wastewater board to our next meeting.

12. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING: The next board meeting will be on March 16, 2006 9:15 to 11:30 at the Reno Hilton.

